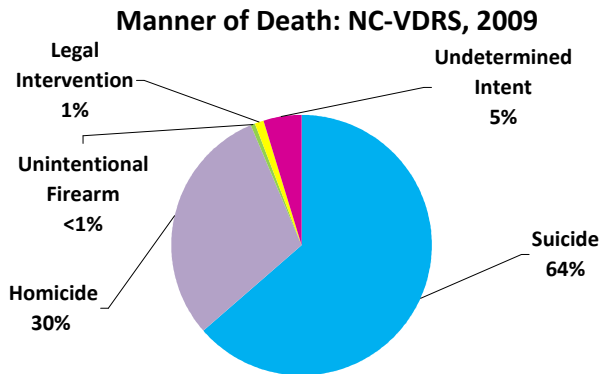


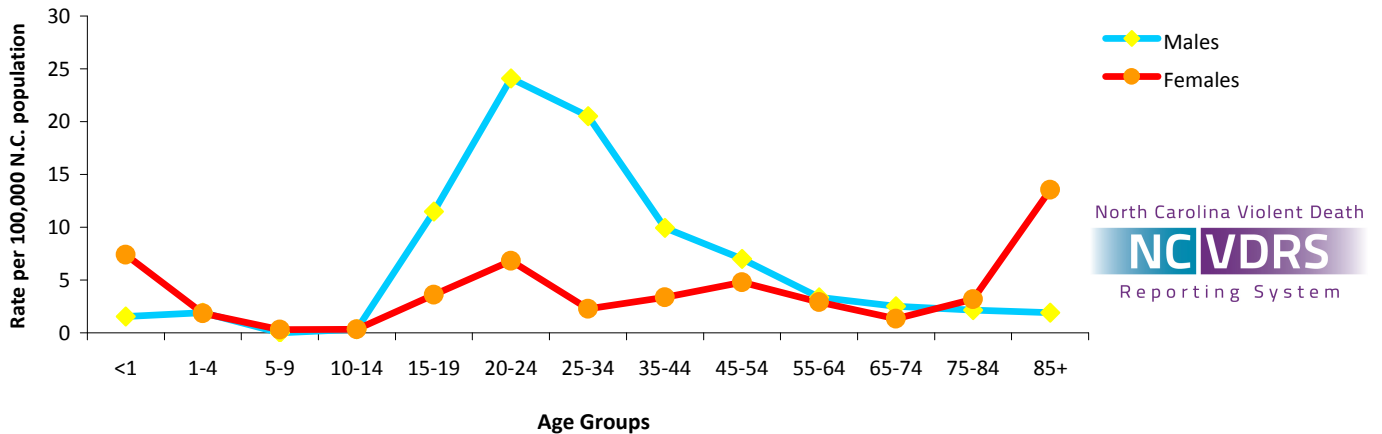
HOMICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes homicides among North Carolina residents for the year 2009.



- Five hundred forty North Carolina residents died as a result of homicide in 2009.
- The total number of deaths as a result of violence was 1,815. There were 1,157 suicides (64 %), 540 homicides (30 %), 22 deaths from legal interventions (1%), 10 unintentional firearm deaths (<1 %) and 86 deaths of undetermined intent (5 %).

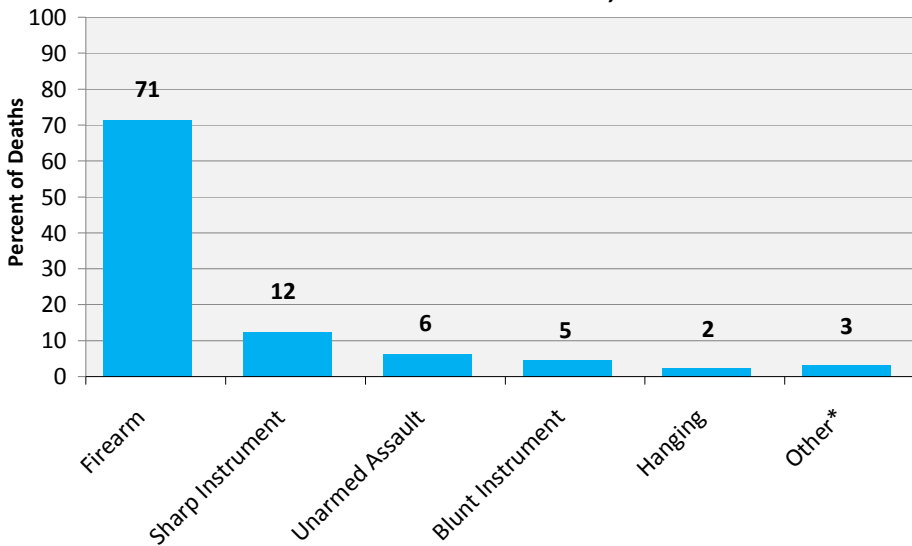
Homicide Rates (per 100,000 N.C. Population) Stratified by Age Group and Gender: NC-VDRS, 2009



- Several spikes in homicide rates were observed when the rates were graphed by age group. For females, the homicide rate peaked in those under the age of 1, ages 20-24, and over the age of 85. For males, the homicide rate peaked for the 20-34 age group. The rate of homicide was nine times greater for males than females 25-34 years of age.

- Homicide patterns differed by race; a total of 280 N.C. homicide victims were black, constituting 52 percent of all homicide victims. Although whites composed three-fourths (74 %) of the total population, they accounted for 43 percent of homicides (234 deaths). The rate of homicide for blacks was 13.5, compared to a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 N.C. residents for whites. American Indians also had a higher rate of homicide (13.9 per 100,000 N.C. residents) but for only 17 deaths.

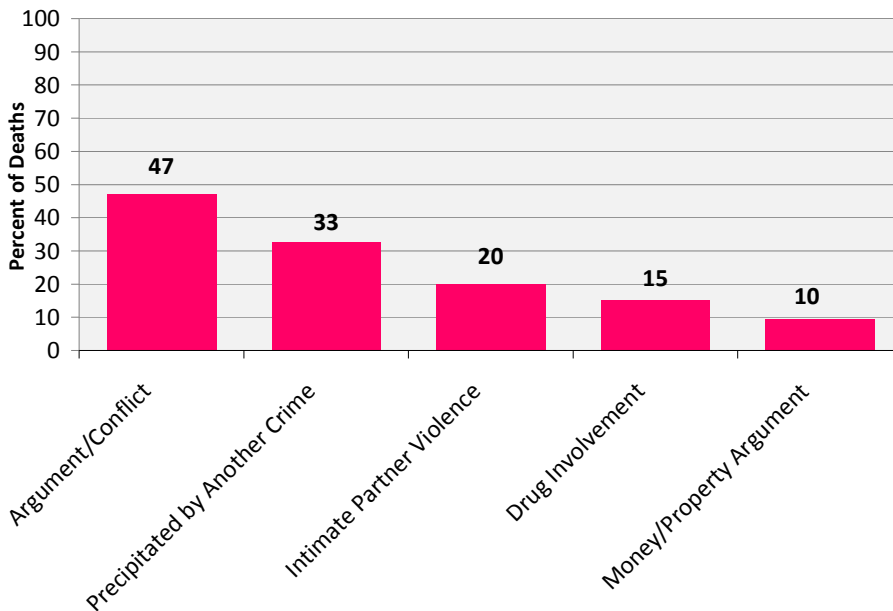
Method of Death: NC-VDRS, 2009



*Other includes motor vehicle, violent shaking, drowning, fire/burns, intentional neglect, unknown method, and other causes of death.

- Firearms were used in 71 percent of homicides; sharp instruments were used in 12 percent.
- The remaining methods were each used less than 7 percent of the time.

Circumstances of Homicide: NC-VDRS, 2009



- Argument, abuse, or conflict unrelated to intimate partner violence (IPV) was noted as a contributing factor in 47 percent of homicides with reported circumstances.
- Thirty-three percent of homicides were precipitated by another crime, such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.
- IPV was indicated as a contributing factor in 20 percent of homicides.
- Fifteen percent of all homicides with circumstances were identified as having drug involvement.

North Carolina Violent Death
NCVDRS
Reporting System

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5U17/CE423098-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



N.C. Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425
N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432
State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov



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